

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR**

Re: Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's False Ballistic Missile Alert

Imagine what you would do if at this moment on your phone you received the following message:

BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

Who would be the first person you would call? What would you say? And what would you do in the intervening 38 minutes between getting that message and getting another saying the first one was false?

Many residents of Hawaii don't have to imagine that—they lived through it. They thought that those 38 minutes were their last. The panic and fear and heartache of those 38 minutes we now believe was due to human error but also deficient preparation and training. No one ever should have to go through moments like those—especially if basic competency would have prevented them.

The people of Hawaii are justifiably livid. They demand answers. And so do we.

I commend the Chairman for immediately beginning an investigation into what happened in Hawaii on January 13th, and I thank the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau for its initial work and for sharing its preliminary findings. We will get to the bottom of this incident, and it is incumbent upon all of the relevant agencies of our government to make certain that this does not happen again.